

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday 26th November 2003 7:15 for 7:45

The Statistical Laboratory,
Centre for Mathematical Sciences,
Wilberforce Road, Cambridge

GM Crops on Trial

Peter Rothery

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Monks Wood

Abstract: The first genetically modified (GM) crops being proposed for commercial planting in the UK are insensitive to broad-spectrum herbicides. These crops offer advantages for weed control but raise concerns about effects on farmland wildlife. The Farm Scale Evaluations (FSE) is a large, three-year study to examine the effect of commercial management of these genetically modified herbicide-tolerant (GMHT) crops (beet, spring and winter oilseed rape and maize) on arable weed and invertebrate populations. This talk will outline the background to the FSE, describe the statistical issues in the design and analysis, and present some of the main findings (published by The Royal Society in October 2003).

Speaker: Peter has worked as statistician applying and developing statistical methods and mathematical models in ecology at several institutes of the Natural Environment Research Council (Nature Conservancy, 1969-73; Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, now Centre for Ecology & Hydrology; 1973-84 & 1995-present; British Antarctic Survey, 1984-95).

Directions: The main entrance is reached from Clarkson Road by going along the footpath to the right of the Newton Institute, and turning left through the gatehouse towards the main building (Pavilion A), which has a glass front and a curved grassed roof. The main entrance is in the middle of the glass front. Coffee before the talk will be in the common room in Pavilion D, and the talk will be in Meeting Room 5 in Pavilion A.. Free Parking is available after 5pm on Clarkson and Wilberforce Roads.

Provisional Next Meetings: PLEASE NOTE EXTRA DECEMBER MEETING.....

10th December – Brian Wiens (AMGEN) on 'Active control, noninferiority and equivalence in clinical trials'.

3rd February – Angela Wood (MRC Biostatistics) on 'Dealing with Missing Outcome Data'.

3rd March – Haidee Philpott & John Law (NIAB) on 'A case study in Winter Wheat Fungicide Trials in the UK 1991-2001'.

5th April – Anthony Edwards (Gonville and Caius).

Supper: Some members eat before a talk at the University Centre meeting in the downstairs bar at 6pm. All welcome !

Subscriptions: of 4 pounds per member are now due for the 2003-2004 session.

Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;

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Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2001-2002

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2001-2002 was held at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, Chaucer Road, Cambridge on 7th October 2002. Present: Dave Andrews(in chair), Saghir Bashir, Margaret Corbett, John Dickens, Margaret Ely, Mary Garratt, Ted Harding, Ian MacPherson, Pamela Morris, Haidee Philpott, Eryl Shirley, Helen Tate, Peter Treasure, Jamie Tunks, Peter Watson, Graham Wetherill.

The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

Reports: The **Treasurer's** Accounts were presented. It was agreed to keep subscriptions at £4 and any subscriptions received at the last two meetings of the year were deemed to expire at the end of the following year. The **Secretary** reported attendance was consistent with previous years.

Election of officers and committee: Ted Harding was proposed and seconded as chair and Margaret Ely as Treasurer. Both were elected unopposed. The committee for 2002-2003: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Margaret Ely ; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Margaret Corbett, Tim Sparks, Helen Tate. Dave Andrews was thanked by Ted for his effective contribution during his period as chair and Peter Treasure for assuming the role of acting treasurer.

Any Other Business: None.

Treasurer's Accounts and Report 2002-2003

Expenditure	2002-03	Income	2002-03
Total	£82.01	Initial cash balance	£89.67
		Subscriptions	£151.55
Balance	£159.21		
Totals	£241.22	Total	£241.22

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2002-2003

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2002-2003 was held at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, Chaucer Road, Cambridge on 14th October 2003. Present: Ted Harding (in chair), Prue Allgood, Tim Cole, Margaret Corbett, Melanie Cooray, Suzanne Degge, Irene Ferreira, Pamela Morris, Helen Tate, Peter Treasure, Jamie Tunks, Peter Watson. Apologies: Margaret Ely, Mary Garratt, Krys Kelly, Haidee Philpott.

The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

Reports: The Treasurer's Accounts were presented. A group bank account had been opened and £150 had been placed in it. Warm appreciation was expressed on the raising of such an amount. It was decided to keep the group subscription at £4 for 2003-2004. The **Secretary** reported attendance was consistent with previous years.

Election of officers and committee: The committee were re-elected unopposed. The committee for 2003-2004: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Margaret Ely ; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Margaret Corbett, Tim Sparks, Helen Tate.

Any Other Business: None.